



Edmonton Civic Opera Society

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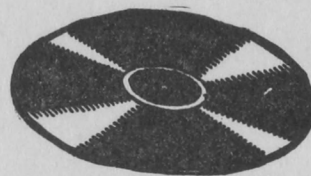
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27th Production

NOVEMBER 26 - 27 - 28 - 29, 1952

STRAND THEATRE

"SONG OF NORWAY"

Based on the life and music of Edvard Grieg

OUR GUEST ARTIST, RALPH MAGELSSSEN



Ralph Magelssen

It is with a great deal of pleasure that the Edmonton Civic Opera Society introduces to our patrons and friends, Ralph Magelssen, in the leading male role, Edvard Grieg. Ralph Magelssen comes to us from New York. He has made many appearances in opera, light opera and on the musical stage. He made a 70,000-mile tour in Irving Berlin's popular all-soldier show, "This is the Army", and appeared in the film version as a featured soloist. Mr. Magelssen was born in Minneapolis, and is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in Music. He has studied in Germany and Italy and was heard in recitals in both countries. He has appeared in opera performances in New York and Philadelphia and has many successful engagements to his credit, including a one-year tour from coast to coast with "Song of Norway", and is associated with the role of Grieg in the mind of everyone who has seen the production. Mr. Magelssen has starred for several seasons with the "Theatre Under The Stars" in Vancouver and is a great favourite there. We welcome this talented artist to Edmonton and wish him every success in his future career.

SUPPORTING CAST

Supporting Mr. Magelssen are some of Edmonton's best and most outstanding artists. Most of these people are well-known to Edmonton audiences and their abilities recognized. Edmonton has reason to be proud of her own.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again it is the pleasure of the Edmonton Civic Opera Society to present to our patrons another production. This is the Society's twenty-seventh show. The impressive list of previous shows will be found on page 14 of the programme. In choosing "SONG OF NORWAY", we believe we are presenting to our audience the most ambitious production to date. All music lovers are captivated by Grieg's beautiful music and the "Song of Norway" is Grieg at his best. Under the musical direction of Mrs. J. B. Carmichael, who has led the Society's musical activities since its inception, you are assured of a true and enjoyable interpretation of this great work. We welcome you to our show, hope you enjoy it and thank you most heartily for your patronage.

IVOR MATHEW, President.

PRODUCTION

Musical Director	Mrs. J. B. Carmichael
Dramatic Director	Laurier Picard
Stage Director	Gerard J. Baril
Chorus Director	Imelda Pepin Olsen
Ballet Director	Muriel Taylor Harris
Scenery Designed and Executed by	Bernard Oppelt



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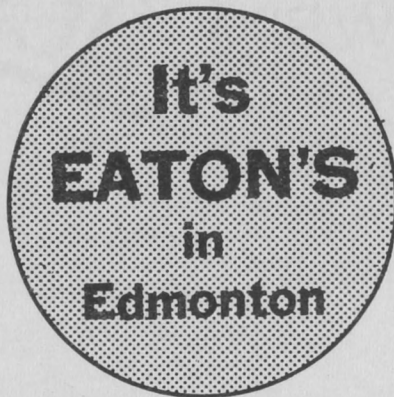
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THE STORY OF "SONG OF NORWAY"

The "Song of Norway" is an inspiring production of the life of Norway's first composer, Edvard Grieg, who understood the value of traditional folk music and embodied it in his compositions. It is the story of his closest friend, Rikard Nordraak and the townspeople of Bergen, and of Edvard's career, which led him to be Norway's most successful composer. It is the magnificent love story of Nina and Edvard and their life at Trolldhaugen. An ancient Norwegian legend, which becomes the incentive for a great composer, is the basis of the story "Song of Norway".

According to the myth, Norway has been locked in a cave of ice by the North Wind, and only a very great Norwegian man can save it, by going out into the world and becoming famed for his work.

With its setting in the Norwegian village of Trolldhaugen, the story tells of Edvard Grieg's intentions to marry his sweetheart Nina, and to spend his time writing music to the poems of his friend, Rikard Nordraak. However, Louisa, an accomplished singer, recognizes Grieg's abilities as a composer and inveigles him into going with her to Italy as her accompanist, where he soon begins to gain continental recognition.

Grieg continues achieving success in his career, until the death of Nordraak in Norway. He returns to his homeland and marries Nina.

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7:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m.

8:55 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

12:30 Noon

3:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m.

11:10 p.m.

12:00 Midnight

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

SCENE 1—A Square on the outskirts of Bergen, Norway, midsummer eve in the 1860's.

SCENE 2—Later the same day.

ACT II

SCENE 1—Copenhagen; Reception room of the Royal Conservatory, one year later.

SCENE 2—Rome; Tito's Chocolate Shop, one year later.

SCENE 3—Rome; Ballroom of the Villa Pincio.

SCENE 4—Trolldhaugen, Norway; Interior of the Grieg home, some time later.

SCENE 5—The Song of Norway.

Music by Edvard Grieg

Lyrics and Musical Adaptation by Robert Wright and George Forrest

Book by Milton Lazarus

Based on the story by Homer Curran



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THE BALLET

Ballet Director Muriel Taylor Harris
Choreography by Ruth Carse, Toronto

ACT II—SCENE II
Tito's Chocolate Shop

Waiter Phil Baker
Waitresses Joan Bryan and Virginia Mighall

ACT II—SCENE III

Entertainment at the Ballroom of the
Villa Pincio, Rome

Corps de Ballet:

Joan Bryan, Dolores Chambers
Janis Harknett, Virginia Mighall
Kay Upright, Barbara Waller

Prima Ballerina:

Margaret Mansell

ACT II—SCENE V
The Legend

Maiden Norway Muriel Taylor Harris
Nordraak Spirit Russ Williamson
Grieg Spirit Gerald Stephens

Snow Maidens:

Joan Bryan
Dolores Chambers
Margaret Mansell
Virginia Mighall
Kay Upright
Barbara Waller

THE LEGEND

The Maiden Norway, in spite of her friends' warning, has entered the forbidden doorway. The spirit of Nordraak enters and it is plainly seen that the spirit of the maiden has hovered close to the spirit of the poet for all time. Their communion is interrupted by a great north wind. The Henchmen of the North Wind rudely tear the poet away from the maiden and when she resists, imprison her in the cave, leaving her a lone frozen figure.

Nordraak's spirit sees the maiden, runs to Grieg at the piano and invokes Grieg's spirit out into space, indicating the maiden to him. The minstrel woos the maiden with his lyre. In the distance we hear Nordraak's voice singing. The maiden's ice prison melts away, she comes to life and she and Grieg's spirit dance together. They are joined by a group of snow maidens who dance in exultation with them.

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IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

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GRIMA	JOHANNA DANYLOWICH
EINAR	DON O'NEILL
SIGRID	LUCIE DOMBROSKI
CHRISTA	YVONNE LE CLAIR
GUNNAR	PETER DEZMAN
NINA HAGERUP	CRYSTAL MacDONALD
EDVARD GRIEG	RALPH MAGELSSSEN
FATHER GRIEG	PAUL HERVIEUX
FATHER NORDRAAK	JIM THOMSON
MOTHER GRIEG	ROSE NOVAKOWSKI
FREDDY	RUSS WILLIAMSON
COUNT PEPPi LE LOUP	LAURIER PICARD
LOUISA GIOVANNI	NOREEN BRISTOW
FRAU PROFESSOR NORDEN	OLIVE COUPER
THE PROFESSOR	SID BURMAN
ELVIRA	RUTH GILLIS NEW
HEDWIG	KAY HANAK
GRETA	BETTY GAYLER
MARGHARETA	MARY BETTS
MISS ANDERS	JACQUIE BATTERSBY
HENRIK IBSEN	ALAN RUNCK
TITO	PHIL BAKER
MAESTRO PISONI	ROBERT EBY
BUTLER	ROBERT SHAW
ADELINA	MARGARET MANSELL
THE MAIDEN NORWAY	MURIEL TAYLOR HARRIS

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Musical Numbers

As a matter of interest to music lovers, the original sources of the musical adaptations are listed with each number.

ACT I — SCENE I

- Prelude Orchestra
 "The Legend"
 (Adapted from the A-Minor Concerto)
 "Hill of Dreams" Nina, Edvard and Rikard
 (Also from the A-Minor Concerto)

SCENE II

- In the Holiday Spirit Dancing Peasants
 "Freddy and His Fiddle" Einar, Sigrid, Freddy
 (Norwegian Dance) and the Singing Townspeople
 "Now" Louisa and Ensemble
 (From Waltz Op. 12, No. 2 and the Violin Sonata No. 2
 in G Minor.)
 "Strange Music" Edvard and Nina
 (From "Nocturne" and "Wedding Day in Troldhaugen")
 "Midsummer's Eve" Rikard, Louisa and Ensemble
 (From "Twos on a Lonely Eve in June" and "Scherzo")
 "March of the Trollgers"
 (The Cake Lottery) Ensemble
 (From "Mountaineers' Song", "Halling" in C Minor, and
 "March of the Dwarfs".)
 "Hymn of Betrothal" Mother Greig and Ensemble
 Finale
 a. Reprise:
 "Strange Music" Edvard, Nina and Ensemble
 b. Reprise:
 "Midsummer's Eve" Rikard, Nina and
 Ensemble

ACT II — SCENE I

- Introduction: "Papillon"
 "Bon Vivant"—Part I Edvard and Ensemble
 (From "Water Lily")
 —Part II ... Peppi, Edvard and Ensemble
 (From "The Book" of Haugtussa Cycle)
 "Three Loves" Louisa and Edvard
 (From "Albumblatt" and "Poem Erotik")
 Finaletto
 a. "Down Your Tea" Louisa and Ensemble
 b. "Nordraak's Farewell" Rikard
 (From "Springtide")
 c. Reprise: "Three Loves" Louisa, Nina and
 Ensemble

SCENE II

- "Rigaudon" (Dance) Tito and His Employees

SCENE III

- "Entr'act" Orchestra
 "Peer Gynt"
 a. "Anitra's Dance" Ballet
 b. "In The Hall of the Mountain King" Adelina
 "I Love You" Nina
 (Ich Liebe Dich)

SCENE IV

- "At Christmastime" Mother Grieg, Father Grieg,
 (From Woodland Wanderings) Nina and Ensemble
 Reprise: "Midsummer's Eve"
 "Strange Music" Edvard and Nina

SCENE V

- The Song of Norway

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Imelda Pepin Olsen

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Period Piano kindly loaned by Mr. Henry Singer.

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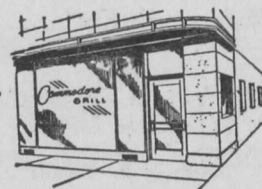
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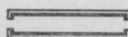
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THE EDMONTON JOURNAL

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Edmonton Journal and the members of their staff for the generous publicity given us for "Song of Norway".

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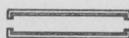
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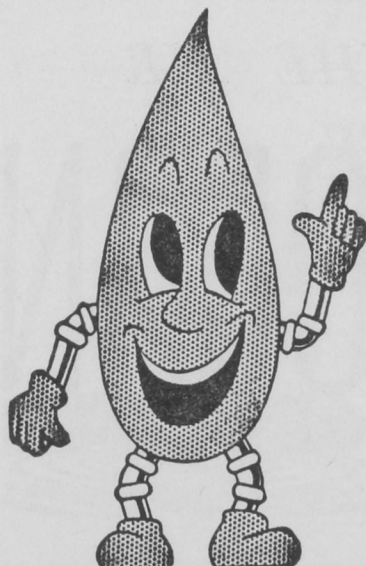
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Il Trovatore
The Red Mill
Faust
The Student Prince
Martha
The Desert Song
Blossom Time
Carmen
Naughty Marietta
The Chocolate Soldier
The Vagabond King
Florodora
Firefly

Katinka
The New Moon
Bitter Sweet
Countess Maritza
The Prince of Pilsen
Rose Marie
The Bohemian Girl
Carmen
Rio Rita
Student Prince
The Merry Widow
Mademoiselle Modiste
Song of Norway

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ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

It has long been the ambition of the Edmonton Civic Opera Society to compile an associate membership list for the mutual benefit of our patrons and ourselves. Several attempts have been made in the past without marked success. This year we are offering an opportunity to patrons to register for the nominal sum of 25c. Tickets are available in the foyer of the theatre before the performance, during intermission and at the end of the show. As a special inducement to register, the Society is offering a beautiful combination radio and record player and two record albums, one of which will be the "Song of Norway", to some fortunate holder of the winning associate membership ticket. It is our intention to compile a list of all patrons registering.

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AIMS AND AMBITIONS OF OUR SOCIETY

To promote a wider appreciation of music and to train promising young musicians to greater achievements in their chosen field of endeavor.

To present high class productions at a minimum cost to our patrons through the co-operative efforts of amateur talent.

To award scholarships to young musicians of outstanding ability which will enable them to continue their studies.

To give to the people of Edmonton and district the finest in talent, staging and costuming.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Society has awarded this year, to date, three junior scholarships and one major scholarship for a total of \$600.00. The senior scholarship was awarded to Miss Eleanor Bowerman, now studying at the Julliard School in New York, and the three junior scholarships were awarded to Crystal MacDonald, Lucie Dombroski and Peter Dezman who are using the grants to further their musical education.

Advertising: Norman Lansdown

Programme Editor: Ivor Mathew



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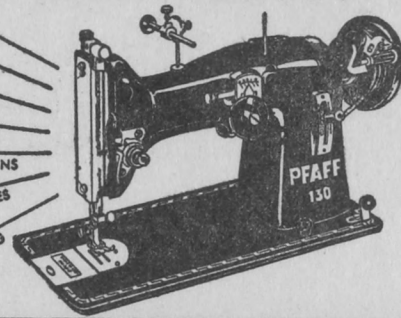
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